

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes

**Wolf Song**

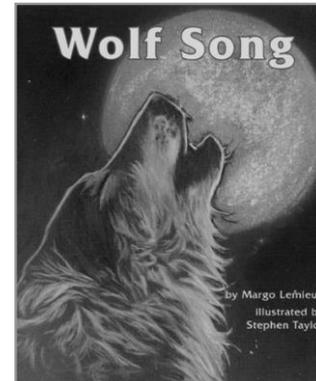
Author Margo Lemieux

Illustrator Stephen Taylor

16 pages ■ 130 words

Fountas and Pinnell Level J

Reading Recovery Level 17



Wolf Song

SYNOPSIS

Wolf parents prepare for the birth and care of their young.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Nonfiction narrative
- Third person
- Past tense
- Specific rather than general
- Inferential reading
- Variety of sentence lengths and structures
- Illustrations convey mood and emotion

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Inferential reading throughout, especially reason for actions
- Understanding that illustrations can convey mood and emotion

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

What sound do we usually associate with a wolf? And when do we think of wolves usually howling? So what might make a wolf

sing? What do you think might be the significance of the wolf in the cover illustration?

What mood does the cover illustration convey? Do you think the wolf was distressed, happy, or . . . ? What aspects of the illustration leads you to think that?

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Wolf Song (continued)

FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

- The challenges for most students will be in the writing style and the inferences the author has left the reader to make rather than in the vocabulary or the sentence structures, although some of the text will require careful reading.
- Discuss how the illustrations create mood and give a clear idea of setting.

How would you describe the illustrations? What do they tell you as well as show you what is happening? How would you feel about the text if the illustrations were much brighter or were not as detailed as these?

Think carefully about how you think the author wants you to read this and what she wants you to think about between the pages.

FOLLOWING THE READING

- Discuss the slow and thoughtful reading that the text and illustrations evoke. Talk about what instructions to the illustrator may have been.
- Have students write another animal story, and instead of illustrating it themselves, have them write an illustration brief for a class member to follow.

What song might Tor have been singing? Write what you think he might have been saying or singing.

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Wolf Song (continued)

Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
FINISH THIS THOUGHT	<i>Luna ignored Tor because she . . . This book is entitled, Wolf Song, because . . .</i>
USE YOUR MEMORY	<i>What did Tor do every time he returned from hunting? Where did Luna dig to prepare a den for the babies? Check page 3 and see if you were right. In what season did this story take place? How do you know?</i>
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?	<i>Do you think Tor was a responsible wolf? What makes you think that? What do you think the author meant by "sang to the moon" on page 16? Did Tor really sing to the moon?</i>
BE CREATIVE	<i>Write another story about Tor and Luna. Don't forget to include their six new wolf pups. What adventures can you imagine for this wolf family? Will there be danger? Who will save them? How will you illustrate your story? Will there be a problem and a solution? Be an author!</i>
VOCABULARY AGENT	<i>Here are some words from the story. Unscramble them and then find each word in the book. *ggdigni *pslet *ldcrwae *nsga *gunhtni *nde *eprrangi</i>

Book Note by Margaret E. Mooney

Additional Comprehension Prompts by Dr. Connie Hebert

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